

JAY INSLEE
Governor



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To the Honorable Speaker and Members,
The House of Representatives of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Sections 6 and 7, Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 1783 entitled:

“AN ACT Relating to creating the Washington state office of equity.”

Section 6 creates a community advisory board, which is given certain duties. Section 7 directs each state agency to, among other things, develop plans and policies and provide data and information pursuant to the bill. Circumstances have changed dramatically since the 2020 supplemental operating budget was approved by the Legislature last month. The COVID-19 pandemic is having catastrophic effects on the health and welfare of Washingtonians. It will also have a major impact on the economic health of our state. I have conferred with leaders in the House of Representatives and Senate, and we agree that we must prepare for the effects of the lost revenue that will result from this pandemic.

For these reasons I have vetoed Sections 6 and 7 of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 1783.

With the exception of Sections 6 and 7, Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 1783 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Inslee
Governor